



MEGAN'S LAW COMPUTER

Public Access Instructions

**San Bernardino County
Sheriff's Department**





MEGAN'S LAW History

Registered Sex Offenders

California for more than 50 years has required dangerous sex offenders to register with their local law enforcement agencies. However, information on the whereabouts of these sex offenders was not available to the public until the implementation of the Child Molester Identification Line in July 1995. The information available was further expanded by California's Megan's Law in 1996 (Chapter 908, Stats. of 1996).

Megan's Law is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kanka's sought to have local communities warned about sex offenders in the area.

Now, California's Megan's Law arms the public with certain information on the whereabouts of dangerous sex offenders so that local communities may protect themselves and their children. The law also authorizes local law enforcement to notify the public about high-risk and serious sex offenders who reside in, are employed in, or frequent the community.

The law is not intended to punish the offender and specifically prohibits using the information to harass or commit any crime against the offender. It recognizes that public safety is best served when registered sex offenders are not concealing their location to avoid harassment.

SOURCE: <http://caag.state.ca.us/megan/index.htm>



MEGAN'S LAW

Introduction



Megan's Law makes available to adults and organizations information on "serious" and "high-risk" sex offenders in their local community. The information on a registered sex offender includes:

- **name and known aliases;**
- **age and sex;**
- **physical description, including scars, marks and tattoos;**
- **photograph, if available;**
- **crimes resulting in registration;**
- **county of residence;**
- **zip code (based on last registration).**



You may access the information for free at a law enforcement agency viewing station; or by TELEPHONE at \$10 per call for up to two names.

SOURCE: <http://caag.state.ca.us/megan/info.htm>



MEGAN'S LAW Contact

How To Obtain Information by Telephone

To obtain information using the 1-900-448-3000 California Sex Offender Information database, you must:

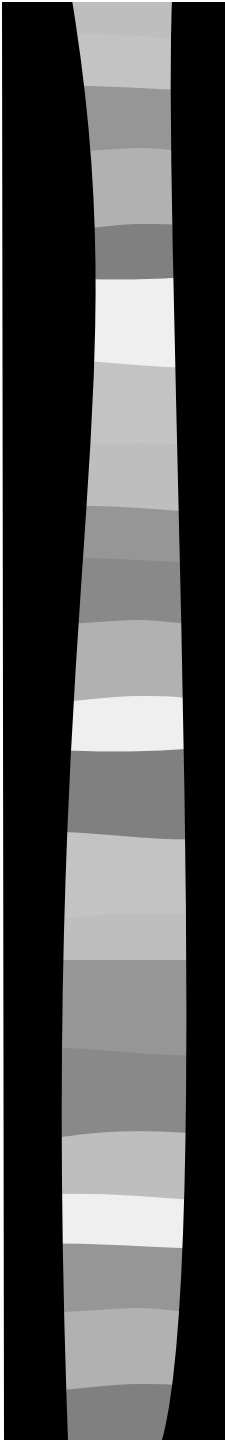
- be at least 18 years of age;
- provide your name and California driver's license or California identification card number, or date of birth or Social Security Number;
- provide the name of the individual on whom you are checking;
- provide the individual's exact street address; or exact date of birth; or California driver's license, personal identification number or Social Security Number. *If you only know the subject's name, you will need to provide a description of the subject.*

There is a \$10 charge per call to inquire about up to two individuals.

MULTIPLE QUERIES. Organizations, businesses and individuals wishing to check on six or more persons, such as volunteers or employees, may submit a mail-in request form with the \$4-per-name processing fee. Results are provided within a week of receipt of the request. The mail-in form must include the name of the organization or individual requesting the information, a contact person, telephone number, the number of people at risk, and information regarding each individual to be checked.

Reminder: The information under Megan's Law may not be used to harass or commit any crime against the offender. Public safety is best served when registered sex offenders are not concealing their location to avoid harassment.

SOURCE: <http://caag.state.ca.us/megan/content/phoneinfo.htm>



Megan's Law FAQ's

What is the procedure for viewing the Megan's Law?

The public should call their local sheriff or police department to determine the nearest viewing station and local provisions for access to this information. Registered sex offenders are not permitted access to this information. In fact, individuals wishing to view the Megan's data must present a California driver's license or identification card to confirm their identity and sign a statement verifying that they are not a registered sex offender. The viewing is provided by local law enforcement officials who instruct the viewer that the information should only be used for public safety purposes.

Is the information in Megan's Law data accurate?

It is estimated that the majority of California's registered sex offenders are in compliance with the registration requirement. However, the zip code listed for some offenders may not be up-to-date where sex offender registrants have failed to comply with California's registration laws.

Since the Megan's data has been available, the public has helped law enforcement identify offenders who are not registered with the correct address. State agents from the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation, work with local law enforcement to arrest sex offenders who do not comply with registration laws.

Why are local law enforcement agencies assigned the responsibility to determine when to notify the public about a high-risk or serious registered sex offender?

Local law enforcement is considered to be in the best position to determine what level and method of notification is appropriate for their community.

When are sex offenders required to register with local authorities?

Sex offenders are required to register with local law enforcement agencies within five working days of being released from a local jail or state prison or completion of any alternate sentence. Sex offenders also must re-register every year within five working days of his or her birthday, moving, or changing his or her name.

With few exceptions, the registration requirement is a lifetime mandate. During annual registration, the registered sex offender is required to verify his or her name and address or temporary location. Failure to properly register may be a felony and may count as a "Third Strike" (Penal Code Section 290).

What is the criteria to be designated a "high-risk" sex offender for which community notice may be given?

Megan's Law requires the California Department of Justice to distribute data containing specific information on all "serious" and "high-risk" sex offenders which is updated monthly. Generally, a "high-risk" sex offender is an individual convicted of multiple violent crimes, at least one of which was a violent sex crime. Additionally, at the time of assessment, there must have been specified criminal activity within the last five years, not counting time in custody. The criteria for "high-risk" sex offenders is provided in Penal Code Section 290(n). As of November 1, 1999, there were over 1,550 "high risk" registered sex offenders.

A "serious" sex offender is an individual convicted of at least one of the following charges: assault with intent to commit rape, oral copulation, or sodomy; rape; sodomy with a minor or by force; lewd or lascivious conduct with a child or a dependent adult; oral copulation with a minor or by force; continuous sexual abuse of a child; child molestation; penetration with a foreign object by force; kidnapping with intent to commit specified sex offenses; felony sexual battery; felony enticement of a child for purposes of prostitution; abduction of a child for purposes of prostitution. As of November 1, 1999, there were over 71,000 "serious" registered sex offenders.

"Other" sex offenders are required to register, but are not subject to disclosure under Megan's Law. These other sex offenders are individuals convicted of pornography, exhibitionism, misdemeanor sexual battery, incest or spousal rape (Specifically PC 262(a)(1)). Additionally, sex offenders adjudicated in juvenile court are not subject to public disclosure. As of November 1, 1999, there were over 12,800 "other" registered sex offenders.

Why isn't this information available on the Internet?

Whether the information can be made available on the Internet is still in legal dispute. Megan's Law is intended to prevent further victimization in local communities by making available certain information on the whereabouts of a registered sex offender. The information is available at designated law enforcement offices. The courts have not yet settled whether it is constitutional to disseminate via the Internet information about registered sex offenders beyond the community where they live and work. The federal appellate court having jurisdiction over California (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) has indicated such information should be distributed narrowly to areas where the public has a safety interest in receiving information about residents in their area. Placing information on the Internet would provide worldwide access.

SOURCE: <http://caag.state.ca.us/megan/faq.htm>



MEGAN'S LAW

Local Access

1. Go to any one of the 5 public viewing stations throughout the county and request to view Megan's Law at the front counter. *Public viewing is available M-F from 8 am to 4 pm.*
 2. Fill out 1 page request form & present proper identification.
- * *The Megan's computer program can be viewed in 13 different languages.*
 - ** *Following you will find a list of public viewing locations, a sample request form and screen shots from the Megan's Law computer system. You can enter information in any one of the fields. The computer will respond with your request. If at any time you should have a question, a clerk should be able to answer your questions.*



MEGAN'S LAW

Public Viewing Locations

SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS

Records Division – 1st Floor

655 E. Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415
(909) 387-3699

CITY OF RANCHO CUCAMONGA

Police Department – Front Counter

10510 Civic Center Drive
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
(909) 477-2800

MORONGO BASIN STATION

Front Counter

6527 White Feather Road
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
(760) 366-4175

VICTOR VALLEY STATION

Front Counter

14455 Civic Center Drive
Victorville, CA 92392
(760) 243-8720

CITY OF NEEDLES

Colorado River Station – Front Counter

1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-9200



San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

For further information, please contact:

Crime Analysis Unit

Michelle Smith, Supervisor

909-387-3485

mjsmith@sanbernardinosherriff.org



Approved for dissemination: Sgt. Jack Trotter, Crime Against Children Detail, July 30, 2002